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Department of Vermont Health Access

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**Vermont Health Connect Announces Community Forums across the State for Spring 2013**

*Forums to Bring Vermonters Together to Discuss New Health Coverage Options Coming this Fall*

WINOOSKI, VT – Vermont Health Connect officials are traveling to communities throughout the state to host the next series of community forums in March, April, May and June. The forums will be an opportunity to learn more about the new health care options available in late 2013. Representatives from the State will be available to answer questions about Vermont Health Connect.

“Over the course of the next year, we will be visiting communities to ensure that every Vermonter knows about the new health coverage options that will be available to them this fall,” said Mark Larson, Commissioner of the Department of Vermont Health Access. “Regardless of income level or employment status, we want to encourage all members of the public to join us.”

Vermont Health Connect will be a marketplace where individuals, families and small businesses in Vermont can compare public and private health plans and select one that fits their needs and budget. At the forums, officials will discuss the essential health benefits that are required of all health plans participating in Vermont Health Connect, the assistance that will be available to Vermonters, and what the Vermont Health Connect marketplace will look like.

The forums, which are free and open to public, will be held in the following locations:

**Newport:** March 20, 12:30-2pm – CCV-Newport

**Charlotte:** March 21, 6:30-8:30pm – The Charlotte Library

**Johnson:** April 2, 6:30-8pm – Johnson State College

**Burlington:** April 8, 6:30-8pm – Burlington High School

**Springfield:** April 24, 6:30-8pm – First Congregational Church

**Manchester:** April 30, 6:30-8pm – Mark Skinner Library

**Grand Isle:** May 7, 6:30-8pm – Grand Isle Elementary

**Rutland:** May 14, 6:30-8pm – Rutland Free Library

**Montpelier:** May 21, 12-2pm – Kellogg Hubbard Library

**Enosburg Falls:** June 4, 6:30-8pm – The Abbey

**Waterbury:** June 12, 6:30-8pm – Thatcher Brook Primary School

Additional forums will soon be announced for May, June and July, and will include forums in the Connecticut River Valley. For details on upcoming events, visit [VermontHealthConnect.gov](http://VermontHealthConnect.gov).

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